

Archaeological Investigation on Land at Tudor Barn, Long Mill Lane, Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent

Site Code: TUD -EV-19

NGR Site Centre 562256 156547

Planning Application Number: TM/18/02880/FL



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological investigation on land at Tudor Barn, Long Mill Lane, Platt, Sevenoaks in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.

The Archaeological Investigation consisted of three test pits, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology with no archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological investigation on land at Tudor Barn, Long Mill Lane, Platt in Kent (**Figure 1**). The investigation was carried in response to a planning condition (3) of application (TM/18/02880/FL).

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KKCHC), who provide an advisory service to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, requested that a programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological investigation be undertaken prior to the commencement of development.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in June 2019 and in discussion with Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC who wrote (8th January 2019).

“The site lies within the area of archaeological potential associated with the production of medieval pottery. The HER records a site of 15th century pottery production (HERNO: TQ 65 NW 82) within the area of Platt Farm and south around Oak House and Tudor Barn itself. Some formal archaeological works in 2010 for Oak House located some archaeological remains but it was suggested that further remains may survive towards Platt Farm. Important structures and remains associated with the medieval pottery kilns could survive within the area of proposed development. Although the proposal is on the site of an existing brick structure and the levels of the site are variable, there is potential for the new groundworks to encounter medieval industrial remains. It would be preferable for such remains to be preserved in situ, especially if the remains comprise kiln structures”.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The application site comprises the demolition of the existing annex and construction of a replacement single storey extension of Tudor Barn, Long Mill Lane, Platt near Sevenoaks in Kent.

The NGR to the center of the site is NGR 562256 156547 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Bedrock geology of Hythe Formation-Sandstone and [Sub-equal/subordinate Limestone]. Superficial deposits are not recorded but revealed on site as mid brown coarse sand with frequent sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles. The PDA is set at an average height of 101.00m AOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

Details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and are itemised here.

Platt Farmhouse is which is adjacent to the PDA (Proposed Development Area) is a Grade II listed building dating from 1550-1999 AD (TQ 65 NW 196). 60m to the SW is a post-medieval building (TQ 65 NW 263) and adjacent to the west is an additional 15th century and later pottery kiln (TQ 65 NW 82) and to the north at about 250m Abrahams late-medieval pottery works (TQ 65 NW 277). 150m to the west is the site of the Wrotham Pottery kilns (TQ 65 NW 79).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2019)

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to:

3.1.2 *The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier history of the PDA and also any other Prehistoric and later archaeological activity.*

3.2 General Aims

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;
- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2019 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the

standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of three test pits were excavated across the Site (Figures 2, 3).

4.2.2 Each pit was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable natural or archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.3 Where appropriate, test pits, or specific areas of test pits, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the test pits comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights. These are retained in the site project archive.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the site project archive.

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific test pits (*i.e.* Test Pit 1, 101+, Test Pit 2, 201+, etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of three test pits were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising a mix of topsoil sealing an intact subsoil of orange sandy clayey silt overlaying the natural yellow brown silty clay with sandstone cobbles and pebbles.

5.2.2 3.1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-3 provide a site plan and test pit location plan while Plates 1-10 include selected site photographs.

5.3 Overview

5.3.1 The three test pits were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains.

6 FINDS

6.1 No finds of any archaeological merit were recovered from the archaeological evaluation

7 Discussion

7.1 Archaeological Narrative

Test Pit One:

(101) - Earth floor - Black earth sealing hardcore

(102) - Superficial deposit – Mid brown, coarse sand with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles

(103) - Superficial deposit – Mid reddish brown, coarse sand with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles

(104) - Superficial deposit – Mid brown, coarse sandy loam with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles

(105) - Superficial deposit - Light grey and yellow, sand with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles

(106) - Superficial deposit – Mid reddish brown, coarse sandy loam with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles

(107) - Superficial deposit - Light yellowish grey, sand with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles.

Test Pit Two:

(201) - Top soil - Black loam; grass vegetation

(202) - Man made - Light grey and yellow sand with hardcore (concrete, bricks, plastic)

(203) - Buried mud layer – Dark blueish grey dense sandy loam with small fragments of clinker

(204) - Superficial deposit – Mid brown, sandy clay with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles and occ. Charcoal flecks

(205) - Superficial deposit – Mid brown, coarse sand with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles

(206) - Superficial deposit – Mid brown, coarse sandy clay with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles

Test Pit Three:

(301) - Top soil - Black loam; grass vegetation

(302) - Tarmac drive - compacted tarmac beads

(303) - Levelling deposit - Dark brown loam with occ. brick fragments

(304) - Levelling deposit - brick fragments, slate and concrete

(305) - Buried garden soil - Dark brown, coarse sand with occ. Sub-angular sandstone and brick fragments

(306) - Superficial deposit - Mid brown, coarse sand with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles

(307) - Superficial deposit - Mid yellowish brown, dense coarse sand with freq. sub-angular sandstone cobbles and pebbles. Interbedded with clay and silt

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Planning Condition. Development proposals are not likely to impact on archaeological remains.

7.2.2 This archaeological investigation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is not likely to impact on any archaeological remains.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

8.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics and will be retained by SWAT Archaeology until a Kent museum archive procedure is in place.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

9.1.2 Bartek Cichy supervised the archaeological investigation and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the text for this report.

10 REFERENCES

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

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Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Dated 26th April 2019.

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Tudor Barn, Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent

SWAT Site Code: TUD/EV/19

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Investigation on the development site above. The site has a planning application for the demolition and replacement build of existing annex

whereby Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council requested that Archaeological works be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Investigation which revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 562256 156547

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Investigation

Date of recording: June 2019

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Investigation of Land at Tudor Barn, Long Mill Lane, Platt in Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

No archaeology found

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson



Site Location Plan
Scale 1:1250

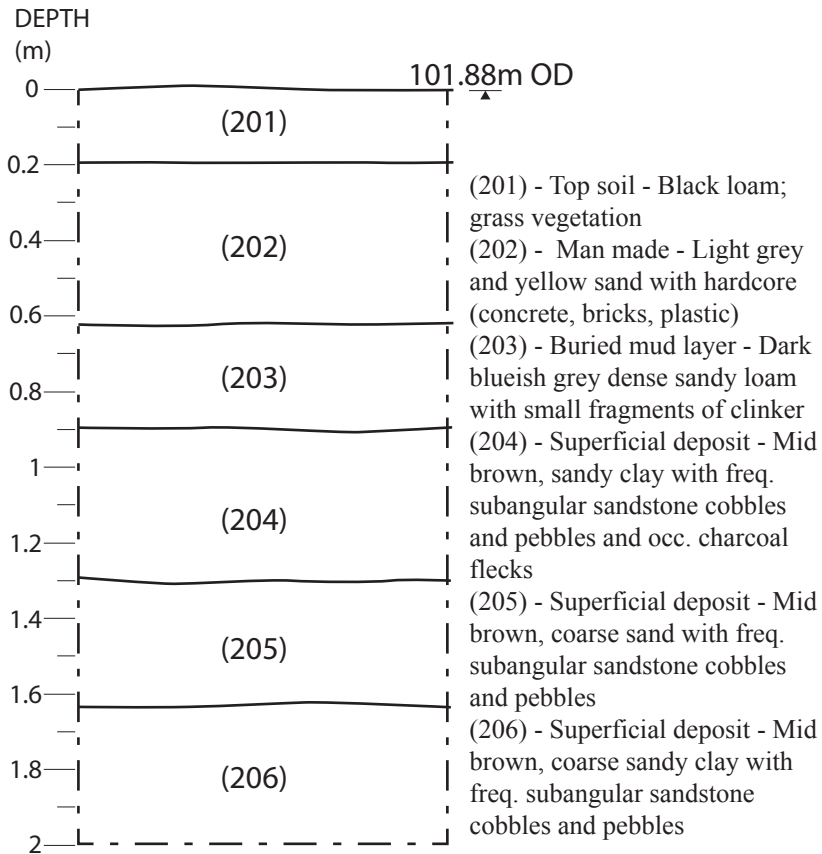
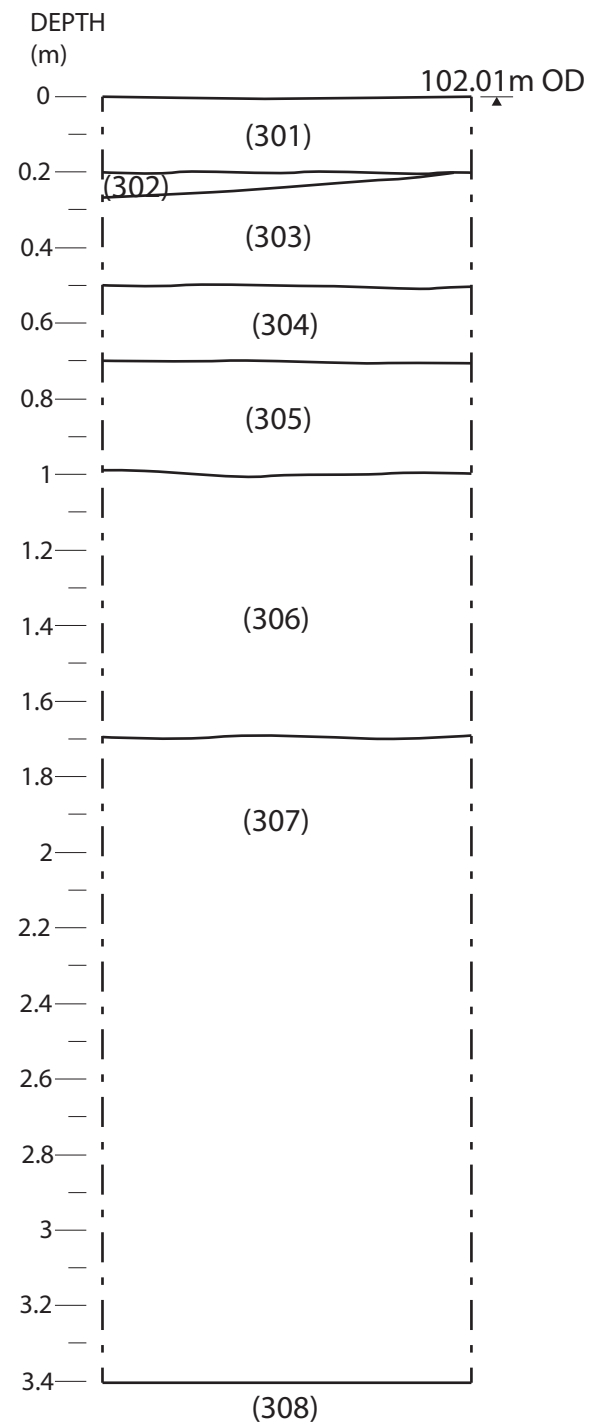
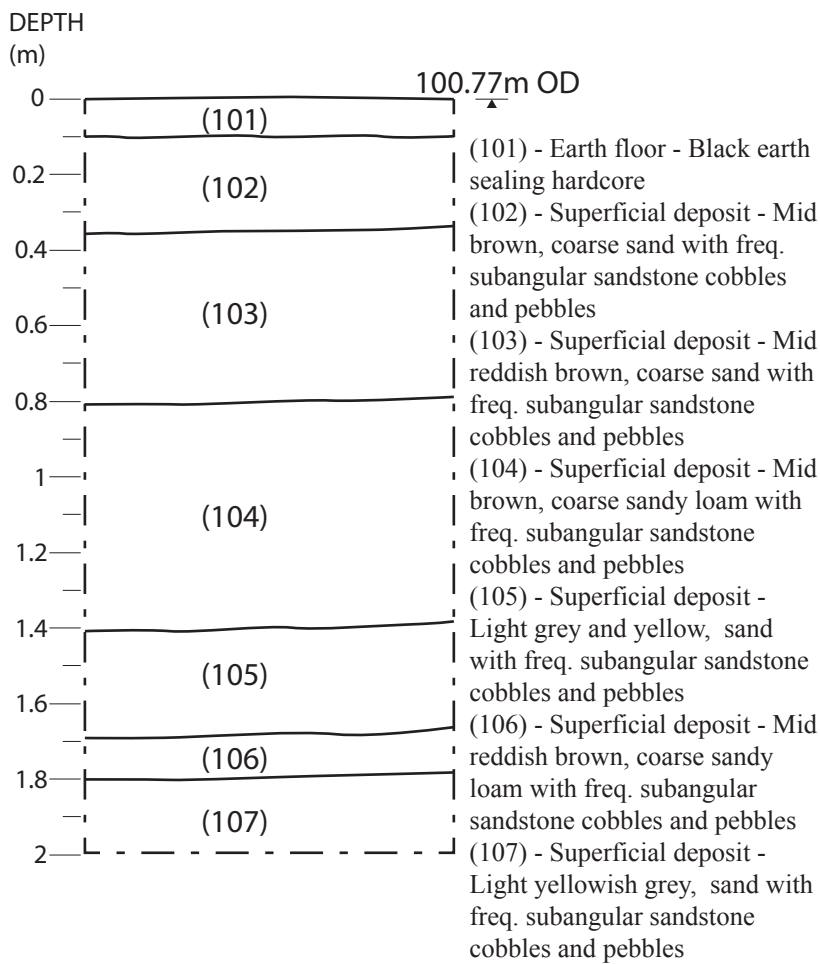


Scale Bar 1:1250

Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench location



(308)

(301) - Top soil - Black loam; grass vegetation
 (302) - Tarmac drive - compacted tarmac beads
 (303) - Levelling deposit - Dark brown loam with occ. brick fragments
 (304) - Levelling deposit - brick fragments, slate and concrete
 (305) - Buried garden soil - Dark brown, coarse sand with occ. subangular sandstone and brick fragments
 (306) - Superficial deposit - Mid brown, coarse sand with freq. subangular sandstone cobbles and pebbles
 (307) - Superficial deposit - Mid yellowish brown, dense coarse sand with freq. subangular sandstone cobbles and pebbles. Interbedded with clay and silt

Figure 3: Sections, scale 1:20



Plate 1: Looking west-north-west at the site. Trench 3 is visible on the left, Trench 2 is located by machine and Trench 1 is located behind the wall obscured by machine bucket. Note house entrance on the right is located on lower ground



Plate 2: Looking east-north-east at Trench 1. Up cast from deeper part of the trench is on the right



Plate 3: Looking south at section of Trench 1



Plate 4: Looking south west at Trench 2



Plate 5: Manmade deposit from Trench 2, context (202)



Plate 6: Superficial deposit from Trench 2, contexts (205) and (206)



Plate 7: Looking north at Trench 3



Plate 8: Top soil from Trench 3 – Context (301) and (303)



Plate 9: Context (305) from Trench 3



Plate 10: Superficial deposits from Trench 3; contexts (306) and (307)